

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) The A method of treating a targeted subcutaneous histological feature within a given depth range below a skin surface in the human body with microwave energy comprising the steps of selecting a microwave frequency in which the loss factor of the targeted subcutaneous histological feature is greater than ~~that the loss factor of adjacent~~ surrounding the targeted subcutaneous histological feature; and directing microwave energy at the ~~chosen~~ selected frequency into the skin with a power density and for a ~~time~~ duration sufficient to raise the temperature of the feature to a level resulting in a permanent ~~pathological~~ change in the pathology of the targeted subcutaneous histological feature due to interaction of the electric field of the microwaves with the target targeted subcutaneous histological feature tissue without resulting in a permanent ~~pathological~~ change in the pathology of intermediate skin the tissue surrounding the targeted subcutaneous histological feature.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 above, including the step of spreading the microwave energy with a distributed energy throughout an area at the depth range of the targeted subcutaneous histological feature.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 2 above, including the further step of cooling ~~the intermediate skin depth~~ tissue between the skin surface and the targeted subcutaneous histological feature during at least a portion of the treatment.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein the targeted subcutaneous histological feature comprises hair and the interaction of the electrical field of the microwaves with the hair induces ~~preferential~~ heating of the hair to cause permanent destruction of the follicles.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 4 above, wherein the targeted subcutaneous histological feature comprises hair roots ~~in the range of about~~ approximately 5 mm below the skin surface, and wherein the method further includes the step of controlling ~~the~~ intensity power density and duration of the microwave energy to radiate the targeted subcutaneous histological feature with 10 to 15 Joules of energy.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein the targeted subcutaneous histological feature comprises ~~externally visible~~ blood vessels of about 0.1 mm diameter or greater and located within 2 mm or less ~~of~~ below the skin surface, and wherein the

microwave energy thromboses ~~the~~ blood in the ~~target~~ blood vessels by raising ~~the~~ blood temperature to in excess of ~~about~~ 55°C.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 6 above, wherein the microwave frequency is in ~~the~~ a range of 10-20 GHz, the ~~applied~~ microwave energy is in ~~the~~ a range of 20 to 30 Joules, and the duration is shorter than ~~the~~ a time for thermal relaxation ~~time~~ of the blood vessels in the ~~targeted~~ subcutaneous histological feature[s].

Claims 8 to 62 (Cancelled).